

eligible to receive a reduced operating subsidy calculated at 20% of the PHA's AEL.

(B) If the recalculated RBY Occupancy Percentage is 97% or higher, the PHA will use 97%.

(C) If the recalculated RBY Occupancy Percentage is less than 97%, but the vacancy rate after adjusting for vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant due to circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control is 3% or less (or the PHA has five or fewer vacant units), the PHA may use its recalculated RBY Occupancy Percentage as its projected occupancy percentage.

(D) If the recalculated RBY Occupancy Percentage is less than 97% and the vacancy percentage is greater than 3% (or the PHA has more than five vacant units) after adjusting for vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant due to circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control, the PHA will use 97% as its projected occupancy percentage, but will be allowed to adjust the 97% by the number of vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant due to circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control. For a small PHA using five vacant units as its occupancy objective for the RBY, the PHA will determine what percentage five units represents as a portion of its units available for occupancy and subtract that percentage from 100%. The result will be used as the PHA's projected occupancy percentage, but the PHA will be allowed to adjust the projected occupancy percentage by vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant for circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control.

(c) *Projected average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit for new Projects.* The projected average monthly dwelling rental charge for new Projects which were not available for occupancy during the budget year prior to the Requested Budget Year and which will reach the End of the Initial Operating Period (EIOP) within the first nine months of the Requested Budget Year, shall be calculated as follows:

(1) If the PHA has another Project or Projects under management which are

comparable in terms of elderly and nonelderly resident composition, the PHA shall use the projected average monthly dwelling rental charge for such Project or Projects.

(2) If the PHA has no other Projects which are comparable in terms of elderly and nonelderly resident composition, the HUD Field Office will provide the projected average monthly dwelling rental charge for such Project or Projects, based on comparable Projects located in the area.

(d) *Estimate of additional dwelling rental income.* After implementation of the provisions of any legislation enacted or any HUD administrative action taken subsequent to the effective date of these regulations, which affects rents paid by residents of Projects, HUD may adjust the projected average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit to reflect such change. HUD also shall have complete discretion to reduce or increase the operating subsidy approved for the PHA current fiscal year in an amount equivalent to the change in the rental income.

(e) *PHA's estimate of other income.* All PHAs shall estimate Other Income based on past experience and a reasonable projection for the Requested Budget Year, which estimate shall be subject to HUD approval. The estimated total amount of Other Income, as approved, shall be divided by the number of Unit Months Available to obtain a per unit per month amount.

(f) *Projected operating income level.* The projected average dwelling rental income per unit (calculated under paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section) shall be added to the estimated Other Income (calculated under paragraph (e) of this section) to obtain the Projected Operating Income Level. This amount shall not be subject to the provisions regarding program income in 24 CFR 85.25.

§ 990.110 Adjustments.

Adjustment information submitted to HUD under this section must be accompanied by an original or revised calculation of operating subsidy eligibility.

(a) *Adjustment of base year expense level.*—(1) *Eligibility.* A PHA with projects that have been in management

for at least one full fiscal year, for which operating subsidy is being requested under the Operating Fund Formula for the first time, may, during its first budget year under the Operating Fund Formula, request HUD to increase its Base Year Expense Level. Included in this category are existing PHAs requesting subsidy for a project or projects in operation at least one full fiscal year under separate ACC, for which operating subsidy has never been paid, except for independent audit costs. This request may be granted by HUD, in its discretion, only where the PHA establishes to HUD's satisfaction that the Base Year Expense Level computed under § 990.105(a) will result in operating subsidy at a level insufficient to support a reasonable level of essential services. The approved increase cannot exceed the lesser of the per unit per month amount by which the top of the Range exceeds the Base Year Expense Level.

(2) *Procedure.* A PHA that is eligible for an adjustment under paragraph (a)(1) of this section may only make a request for such adjustment once for projects under a particular ACC, at the time it submits the calculation of operating subsidy eligibility for the first budget year under the Operating Fund Formula. Such request shall be submitted to the HUD Field Office, which will review, modify as necessary, and approve or disapprove the request. A request under this paragraph must include a calculation of the amount per unit per month of requested increase in the Base Year Expense Level, and must show the requested increase as a percentage of the Base Year Expense Level.

(b) *Adjustments to Utilities Expense Level.* A PHA receiving operating subsidy under § 990.104, excluding those PHAs that receive operating subsidy solely for independent audit (§ 990.108(a)), must submit an adjustment regarding the Utility Expense Level approved for operating subsidy eligibility purposes. This adjustment, which will compare the actual utility expense and consumption for the PHA fiscal year to the estimates used for subsidy eligibility purposes, shall be submitted on forms prescribed by HUD. This adjustment, applicable to PHA fis-

cal years beginning on or after January 1, 1999, shall be submitted to the HUD Field Office within 45 days after the close of the PHA fiscal year that is being adjusted. Failure to submit the required adjustment of the Utilities Expense Level by the due date may, in the discretion of HUD, result in the withholding of approval of future obligation of operating subsidies and/or a delay in the recognition of the adjustment. Adjustments under this section normally will be made in the operating subsidy calculation for the second PHA fiscal year following the year being adjusted, unless a repayment plan is necessary as noted in paragraph (d) of this section.

(1) *Rates.* A change in the Utilities Expense Level because of changes in utility rates—to the extent funded by the operating subsidy—will result in an adjustment of future operating subsidy payments. However, where the rate reduction covering utilities, such as water, fuel oil, electricity, and gas, is directly attributable to action by the PHA, such as wellhead purchase of natural gas, or administrative appeals or legal action beyond normal public participation in rate-making proceedings, then the PHA will be permitted to retain one-half of the cost savings attributable to its actions for the first year and, upon determination that the action was cost-effective in the first year, for as long as the actions continue to be cost-effective, and the other one-half of the cost savings will be deducted from operating subsidy otherwise payable.

(2) *Consumption.* (i) Generally, 75% of any decrease in the Utilities Expense Level attributable to decreased consumption after adjustment for any utility rate change, will be retained by the PHA; 25% will be offset by HUD against subsequent payment of operating subsidy.

(ii) However, in the case of a PHA whose energy conservation measures have been approved by HUD as satisfying the requirements of § 990.107(f)(1) (regarding non-HUD financed incentives for energy conservation improvements), the PHA operating fund eligibility shall reflect the retention of 100% of the savings from decreased consumption after payment of the amount

due the contractor until the term of the financing agreement is completed. The decreased consumption is to be determined by adjusting for any utility rate changes and may be adjusted, subject to HUD approval, using a heating degree day adjustment for space heating utilities. The savings realized must be applied in the following order:

(A) Retention of up to 50% of the total savings from decreased consumption to cover training of PHA employees, counseling of residents, PHA management of the cost reduction program and any other eligible costs; and

(B) Prepayment of the amount due the contractor under the contract.

(iii) 25% of an increase in the Utilities Expense Level attributable to increased consumption, after adjustment for any utility rate change, will be reflected in the operating subsidy eligibility for the second PHA fiscal year following the year being adjusted, in accordance with § 990.111.

(iv) PHAs are encouraged to:

(A) Provide conservation incentives and training to residents in order to realize increased utility savings;

(B) Share information with residents regarding changes in utility costs related to rate changes and to changes in consumption; and

(C) Explain to residents conservation benefits and impacts of excess consumption on the operating budget.

(3) *Documentation.* Supporting documentation substantiating the requested adjustments shall be retained by the PHA pending HUD audit.

(c) *Energy conservation financing.* If HUD has approved an energy conservation contract under § 990.107(f)(2), then the PHA is eligible for additional operating subsidy each year of the contract to amortize the cost of the energy conservation measures under the contract, subject to a maximum annual limit equal to the cost savings for that year and a maximum contract period of 12 years.

(1) Each year, the energy cost savings would be determined as follows:

(i) The consumption level that would have been expected if the energy conservation measure had not been undertaken would be adjusted for any change in utility rate and may be adjusted, subject to HUD approval, using a heat-

ing degree day adjustment for space heating utilities;

(ii) The actual cost of energy (of the type affected by the energy conservation measure) after implementation of the energy conservation measure would be subtracted from the expected energy cost, to produce the energy cost savings for the year. (See also paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section for retention of consumption savings.)

(2) If the cost savings for any year during the contract period is less than the amount of operating subsidy to be made available under this paragraph (c) to pay for the energy conservation measure in that year, the deficiency will be offset against the PHA's operating subsidy eligibility for the PHA's next fiscal year.

(3) If energy cost savings are less than the amount necessary to meet amortization payments specified in a contract, the contract term may be extended (up to the 12-year limit) if HUD determines that the shortfall is the result of changed circumstances rather than a miscalculation or misrepresentation of projected energy savings by the contractor or PHA. The contract term may only be extended to accommodate payment to the contractor and associated direct costs.

(d) *Additional HUD-initiated adjustments.* Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subpart, HUD may at any time make an upward or downward adjustment in the amount of the PHA's operating subsidy as a result of data subsequently available to HUD which alters projections upon which the approved operating subsidy was based. If a downward adjustment would cause a severe financial hardship on the PHA, the HUD Field Office may establish a recovery schedule which represents the minimum number of years needed for repayment.

§ 990.111 Submission and approval of operating subsidy calculations and budgets.

(a) *Required documentation.* (1) Prior to the beginning of its fiscal year, the PHA shall prepare an operating budget in a manner prescribed by HUD. The Board of Commissioners shall review and approve the budget by resolution. Each fiscal year, the PHA shall submit